Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A device for filtering at least a predetermined selected optical signal having a predetermined wavelength range from a series of optical signals, the device comprising:

a polarization alignment means for substantially aligning substantially orthogonal polarization states of an optical input signal so as to produce a polarization aligned optical signal;

a polarization manipulation means for imparting a controlled polarization manipulation to said polarization aligned optical signal so as to output a polarization manipulated optical signal having one of at least two distinguishable polarization states including a first polarization state and a second polarization state;

an optical separation means tunable liquid crystal etalon filter having a tunable separation wavelength for spatially separating the selected optical signal from said series of optical signals when the polarization state of the polarization manipulated optical signal is in a first polarization state, thereby forming a first and second output optical signal, and maintaining the spatial alignment of said selected optical signal with said series of optical signals when the polarization manipulated optical signal is in a second polarization state so as to form a third optical output.

Claims 2 - 3 (Canceled).

4. (Presently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1 ~~3~~ wherein said etalon filter transmits the selected optical signal when the polarization state of the second optical signal is in said first polarization state and reflects the selected optical signal when the polarization state of the second optical signal is in the second distinguishable state.